these discussions is to harmonise India's" essential national security interests with international concerns on further proliferation, which are shared by India. Government's approach in this matter is solely guided by India's national interest and the building of a national consensus in this regard.

(c) There is no proposal to amend the CTBT.

(d) Does not arise.

India's Willingness to Sign CTBT

355. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have indicated to the US Government its willingness to sign the CTBT in the next few months; and

(b) if so, what are the broad elements the Minister of External Affairs and the US Deputy Secretary of State during their discussions in January, 1999?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Government's position on the CTBT is determined purely by considerations of national interest. The building of a national consensus will continue to guide the Government's approach to the CTBT.

The Indian position regarding CTBT remains as stated by the Prime Minister in UNGA in September, 1998 "India, having harmonised its national imperatives and security obligations and desirous of continuing to cooperate with the international community is now engaged in discussions with key interlocutors or) a range of issues, including the CTBT. We are prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion, so that the entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September, 1999. We expect that other countries, as indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to this treaty without conditions"

(b) As on earlier rounds of bilateral talks, the security perspective of the two sides were further elaborated and clarified with a view to harmonising perspectives. Both delegations expressed satisfaction at the progress made in the last round of talks. The talks will be continued.

G-1S Summit at Montego Bay

356. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian delegation led by the Prime Minister of India attended the three-day G-15 Summit at Montego Bay in Jamaica from 10th February, 1999;

(b) if so, what were the details of discussion held there and outcome of above mentioned Summit;

(c) whether any concrete action plans for furthering G-15 member's common trade and investment interests chalked out by Prime Minister of India; and

(d) what role India played in imparting the much needed dynamism to the Summit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The G-15 Summit Meetings deliberated extensively on issues of concern to developing countries These includes discussions on the current international economic situation in the light of the ongoing financial crisis, establishment of a fair and equitable rules based multilateral trading system under the world trade Organisation (WTO), reform of the international monetary and financial architecture, south-south ad intra G-15 cooperation and prospects of undertaking a G-15-G-8 dialogue in these matters. All such priorities were duly reflected in the Joint Communique issued at the end of the Ninth Summit. In order to be able to cope with the challenges posed by globalisation and economic liberalisation and the ongoing financial crisis , members agreed to

promote convergence of viewpoints on these issues. They also called for enhanced regional and international cooperation to combat the menace of terrorism.

(c) and (d) India's offer to host a G-15 meeting at an appropriate level in preparation for the Third WTO International Conference was welcomed by the participants at the Ninth G-15 Summit. They also endorsed India's proposal which suggested adoption of a strategic sectors approach for South-South cooperation focussing on core areas like bio-technology, information technology and infrastructure development.

Indo-Pak Talks

357. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the stand to be taken for next round of Indo-Pak talks to resolve the problem of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) India is committed to adressing the subject of Jammu & Kashmir as part of the composite dialogue process with Pakistan. Government has called upon Pakistan to end its support to and instigation of cross-border terrorism. This demand, as well as our position on J&K, will be appropriate reiterated to the Pakistan side in our discussions.

Lifting of Sanctions on MFI Loans

358. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the US of lift sanctions of MFI loans to India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the US thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Government's position regarding unilateral restrictive economic measures is clear. Government regards all such measures as unjustified and counter-productive and is of the view that they should be lifted. Government, however will not negotiate security issues on this basis. Government have also stated that for the successful conclusion of talks, creation of a positive environment by our interlocutors is a necessary ingredient.

(b) In partial exercise of waiver authority given by the US Congress, US Government on November 7, 1998 announced lifting of some restrictive economic measures against India. These relate to programmes of three US institutions namely the EXIM Bank, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and the Trade Development Authority (TDA). The US Government also lifted restrictions on activities of Commercial US Banks and International Military Education and Training Programme (IMET). Bilateral and multilateral programmes of assistance in basic needs areas are also continuing.

The US Government stated that it was taking the step in recognition of the progress in the dialogue.

Recently, the US did not obstruct approval of a World Bank loan for Infrastucture and power development in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Cancellation of PM's stop over at Bonn En-Route Jamaica

359. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister decided to cancel his stopover at